

King of Prussia, PA — Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA), Vice-Chairman of the Small Business Committee and member of the Armed Services Committee, toured MACH I, Inc., a high technology performance chemical company whose focus is military and aerospace applications for propellants, ordnance, and pyrotechnic systems. Their work seeks to improve the functional capabilities of our nation's missiles and kinetic interceptors by increasing propulsion. — MACH I, Inc., which was incorporated in 1985 and located in King of Prussia, focuses the bulk of its business on military and aerospace applications for propellants, ordnance, and pyrotechnic systems. They produce chemicals used in these applications; perform development research in these areas, and market products made by other companies. The industries it serves include nano-structure, advanced materials, defense and space.

“I was impressed with the work at Mach 1. Companies like Mach 1, which their innovative technologies will not only create new opportunities for small business in our region, but will improve our military and transform it for the 21st Century. American small businesses bring innovation, creativity, competition and lower costs to the federal table,” stated Congressman Sestak.

Since he has been in Congress, Joe has met with numerous businesses throughout the district and worked with them in to pursue their initiatives that support vital research in equipment technology, bio-terrorism, logistics systems, wireless technologies, interoperability, emergency broadband systems, and other areas that assist our men and women in uniform. Because of these meetings, he informed the House Armed Services Committee of the important work that is being done in his district toward the critical transformation of the military. In particular, he secured authorized funding, nearly \$40 million, for industries and research laboratories from our region in the Defense Authorization bill.

Congressman Sestak has also taken steps to benefit companies like Mach 1 by creating defense contracting opportunities for small businesses. Specifically, he passed an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill that mandated defense contract officers must certify that they have done market research, including by using a web browser, to see if small businesses qualify for any contract over \$1 million. This amendment will not only improve our defense contracting system to improve cost efficiency but it will also benefit small businesses. And he passed an amendment requiring that, when possible, large contracts are unbundled to open the bidding process to small businesses. Over the past five years, the federal government has increased the use of a practice known as “contract bundling,” which allows federal agencies to consolidate purchases into mega-contracts — contracts so large they cannot possibly be performed by a small company. As a result, significantly fewer small businesses are receiving federal government contracts. Congressman Sestak’s amendment will ensure that more large

contracts will be reviewed as to their appropriateness to be bundled, and potentially broken into smaller pieces more suitable for small business. This is important because 23 percent of all federal contracts are to be given to small businesses, but currently only 6.5 percent them are given to small businesses in the Seventh District.

“American small businesses bring innovation, creativity, competition and lower costs to the federal table. When these businesses are excluded from federal opportunities through contract bundling, our agencies, small businesses, and the taxpayers lose,” added Congressman Sestak. “Fairer access for small businesses will lead to lower prices and the improvement of the quality of goods and services procured by the federal government, bringing greater returns for taxpayer dollars.”

Congressman Sestak has a strong commitment to creating jobs and helping small business. As Vice Chairman of the Small Business Committee, Rep. Sestak has worked to support new and small businesses through open access to loans, credit and capital, advocates fair and true tax relief for small business, and work to reduce onerous regulations and paperwork.

Congressman Sestak cosponsored the Family Small Business Tax Fairness Act to streamline small business joint-tax filings. He also voted in favor of Small Business Tax Relief Act--a bipartisan bill with \$1.3 billion in tax cuts to help small businesses invest in new equipment and hire new workers.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.